स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री रशीद मसूद) : (क) से (घ) जनसांख्यिकी परिवार नियोजन संबंधी लक्ष्य सामान्यत: पंचवर्षीय योजनावधियों के लिए निर्धारित किए जाते हैं । जबकि आंठवीं योजना बनाने का कार्य चल रहा है, सातवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में इसके अंत तक जन्म-दर 29.1 और मृत्यु-दर 10.4 प्राप्त करने की बात निर्धारित की गई । इन लक्ष्यों के मुकाबले वर्ष 1988 के लिए अब तक प्राप्त किए नवीनतम स्तर इस प्रकार हैं :

प्रति हजार जनसंख्या के पीछे जन्म-दर 31.5 और मृत्यु-दर 11.0 । जन्म-दर और मृत्यु-दर को कम करने के लिये एक सुपरिभाषित कार्य-नीति तैयार की गई है जिसमें स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं की गुणवत्ता में सुधार करने, स्वास्थ्य संबंधी आधार-भूत ढ़ाचे को सुदृढ़ करने, व्यापक रोग प्रतिरक्षण कार्यक्रम के माध्यम से शिशु उत्तरजीविता दरों को बढ़ाने, जनसंख्या शिक्षा को तेज करने, सामुदायिक सह-भागिता को बढ़ाने, उन्नत संचार प्रणालियों को अपनाने और स्वयं सेवी संगठनों को शामिल करने पर जोर दिया गया है। इसके अतिरिक्त बुनियादी स्तर पर कार्मिकों को प्रशिक्षण और पुन: प्रशिक्षण प्रदान करने महिला साक्षरता जैसे संबंधित विकास कार्यक्रमों के बीच संबंध स्थापित और सुदृढ़ करने और महिलाओं के स्तर का सुधार करने तथा क्षेत्रीय गहन सम्पर्क संबंधी विधि-ग्रहण करने की योजनाओं को कार्यान्वित किया जा रहा है और उन्हें और सुदृढ़ किया जाएगा ।

Abortion related deaths in the country

2243. SHRI GHUFRAM AZAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention been drawn to a pres news-item captioned "Abortion related deaths increasing" as eported in the Hindustan Times" of the 14th July, 1990;

(b) if so, whether any surevy has been conducted by Government to ascertain the number of abortion related deaths in India during the last two years; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HELTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Although different Studies have been carried out to ascertain prevalence of illegal abortion, no, study has been carried out by the Government regarding abortion-related deaths.

(c) Facilities for Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) have been created and are being expanded. Medical personnel are being trained in MTP.

Hike in the prices of essential drugs

2244. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of the essential life-saving drugs are rising day by day without any check and are not even available in the market;

(b) whether Government are aware of nexus between the MNC's and some drug manufacturing companies operating in the country;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to draw or have already drawn up any list of essential life-saving drugs with a view to impress upon the drug companies to produce the same; and

(d) in how many cases the present Government have taken legal action against defaulting companies like M|s. Hoechst and others which did not produce required drugs because of its being less profitable?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Government is committed to make available

essential medicines to the public in adequate quantities at fair and reasonable prices As and when there is any report of shortage of any essential medicine, Government takes appropriate action to meet the situation. There has been no shortage of drugs and if there was any shortage that was localised and therapeutic equivalents were available. The prices of a number of formulations based on Chlorpromazine, Thioridazine, Trifluoperazine, Amitryptline, Imipramine, Triprolidine. Polymixin B. Sulphate, Flucinolone Acetonide etc. have already been reduced in the recent past. The exiting drug policy is also under review and the objective of making drugs available in adequate quantities at reasonable prices will be kept in mind.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). As stated in part (a) above, the existing drug policy is being reviewed so that there is due emphasis and encouragement to the production of essential drugs in the coutry.

Medical care to the Salt Growers

2245. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the salt-growers in Ran of Kutch and other areas in the country are reported to have not been provided with medical health care/check up; and

(b) whether any Government agency has recently been entrusted with this job, if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) According to the information received from salt Commissioner to the Government of India, Ministry of Industry (Department of Industrial Development), it is the Primary responsiblity of State Government and employers to look after the health of the Salt Labourers. However, the Salt Department of the Government of India, provides assistance from CESS proceeds to State Government, and other agencies as per guidelines contained in 'Code of Principles'. Holding of General Health and Eye camps for check up of salt labourers is a regular feature. Recently a comprehensive Health survey of salt labourers in arid Rajasthan state has been entrusted at a cost of Rs. 2.55 lakhs to Regional Research Medical Centre at Jodhpur under I.C.M.R.

Fall in the prices of Petrochemicals

2246. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that international prices of petrochemical raw materials for synthetic industry have fallen considerably in the recent past;

(b) what has been the quantum of fall in the prices of paraxylene, MEG, DMT and PTA during the last one year;

(c) what are the present ruling prices of the above items referred to in para (b) above in the international market; and

(d) whether with a view to safeguard the indigenous industry Government propose to increase import duty on these materials in order to compare favourably with fair selling prices of the domestic produce?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Prices of petrochemical commoditiles do fluctuate in internationaj market.

(b) and (c) The prices of synthetic fibre raw materials ruled high in early 1989 and fell considerably in the early part of 1990. It is understood that there has recently been a spurt in these prices because of the Middle east situation.